

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O R 111858Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6033

INFO USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L P A R I 1001

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, FR, PFOR,

SUBJECT: SECDEF STATEMENT ON U.S. STRATEGIC TARGETING

1. AP ITEM OUT OF WASHINGTON REPORTS THAT SECDEF DISCLOSED TO VERSEAS WRITERS CLUB JANUARY 10 A "CHANGE IN TARGETING STRATEGY." ACCORDING TO REPORT, SECDEF SAID U.S. WILL NOW CONCENTRATE ON HITTING MILITARY AND CIVILIAN TARGETS OUTSIDE SOVIE CITIES IN THE EVENT OF A RUSSIAN NUCLEAR ATTACK ON NON-POPULATED AREAS OF THE U.S. OR ITS ALLIES. REPORT CONTINUED, "IN SETTING OUT THE NEW TARGETING POLICY, SCHLESINGER SAID ITAPPLIED TO TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE, AS WELL AS STRATEGIC ATTACKS AGAINST U.S. MISSILE SITES OR SUBMARINES."

2. WE ANTICIPATE THAT WE WILL RECEIVE INQUIRIES FROM QUAI AND MOD ABOUT REPORTOF "CHANGE IN TARGETING STRATEGY," PARTICULARLY REGARDING ITS IMPACT ON DEFENSE OF EUROPE. IF THIS DOES REPRESENT REAL CHANGE IN U.S. TARGETING STRATEGY, WE EXPECT THAT FRENCH WILL RAISE QUESTION ABOUT NATURE OF PRIOR U.S. CONSULTATION WITH ITS ALLIES -- INCLUDING GOF -- ON MATTER WHICH DIRECTLY AFFECTS SECURITY OF EUROPE. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE INCLUDING,IF POSSIBLE, EXPLANATION OF REASONING BEHIND "CHANGE," FOR PRESENTATION ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS TO KEY GOF OFFICIALS.
CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS01001
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750001-2263
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740174/abbrzbfm.tel
Line Count: 54
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <09 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECDEF STATEMENT ON U.S. STRATEGIC TARGETING
TAGS: PFOR, ESTC, FR, US
To: STATE INFO USNATO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005